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**McNISH, EDGAR  
COLLECTION  
1783-1867**

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Accession Number: 1972.243  
Date Completed: December 15, 1972  
Location: I-H-3  
Microfilm Accession Number: 1159

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## **INTRODUCTION**

These papers were donated by the collector, Edgar McNish, of Franklin, North Carolina. The materials in this finding aid measure .42 linear feet. There are no restrictions on the materials. Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Edgar McNish Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT**

This collection of papers, spanning the years 1783-1867, consists of agreements, contracts, correspondence, deeds, land grants, minutes, statements, surveys, an account of sale, a court ease, a map, a power of attorney, a warrant, and a will.

Most of these papers pertain to the estate of John Rice. Included is his claim dated 1783, the warrant and survey dated 1784, and the original grant of 5,000 acres of land issued by the state of North Carolina in 1789. In 1791, John Rice died leaving an estate of more than 100,000 acres of land in Tennessee. He had appointed William H. Rice, Elisha Rice, Anthony Bledsoe, and Jesse Benton to execute his will dated 1784, however, both Jesse Benton and Anthony Bledsoe died during his lifetime. Elisha Rice proved the will and he and William H. Rice disposed of most of the estate. Included in this collection are several contracts, deeds, and statements involving land transactions between Elisha Rice and John Overton who obtained control of most of the Rice estate.

In 1808, a bill of complaint was entered in the Metro District Court of Equity by Hugh Gwynn, et al against William H. Rice, et al on the grounds that the will of John Rice had no been properly executed. This case was postponed from term to term until 1826 when it was finally decided in favor of the defendants. Other documents concerning the Rice estate involve land transactions between John Overton and his business partners, Andrew Jackson and James Winchester.

This collection also contains papers concerning a tract of land in Nashville, Tennessee, owned by Charles Gerrard. These include the deed from Lardner Clark to Charles Gerrard dated 1789; minutes of meetings of the University of North Carolina Board of Trustees regarding release of the Nashville lot to Elizabeth Gerrard Hunter, dated 1804, 1806, 1810; deed from the University of North Carolina Board of Trustees to Elizabeth Gerrard Hunter, dated 1811; and correspondence of Will Polk to Henry Hunter (husband of Elizabeth Gerrard Hunter) regarding William Anderson's payment for the Nashville lot, dated 1812.

Miscellaneous papers include a contract dated 1827 between William M. Neill, Matthew D. Cooper, and Madison Caruthers establishing the Cooper, Caruthers & Co., New Orleans, Louisiana; correspondence from Thomas J. Stump to Julia Stump McNish (his sister) dated 1859, 1861, 1867; land grant to George W. Crawford, dated 1849; land grant to Noah Wyant, dated 1851; land grant to N.W.W. Yont, dated 1857; and a stock certificate for one hundred shares in the Sewanee Mining Company issued to William B. Shapard, dated 1856.

## CONTAINER LIST

### **Box 1**

#### **Papers Concerning Rice Estate**

1. Will of John Rice – June 14, 1784
2. Claim for land by John Rice – June 24, 1783
3. Warrant for survey of land for John Rice – June 24, 1784
4. Survey of land for John Rice by Isaac Roberts – June 24, 1784
5. Land grant to John Rice – April 25, 1789
6. Statement of lands (15,000 acres) sold to John Rice by Roberson Mumford, Sr. – September 1, 1789
7. Contract between John Rice and Jesse Benton regarding sale of lands (15,000 acres) to Colonel Hart – September 3, 1789
8. Deed for land (15,000 acres) from Joel Rice on behalf of himself and Nathan and William H. Rice, heirs of John Rice, to Elisha Rice – May 13, 1794
9. Deed for land (15,000 acres) from Elisha Rice to John Overton – May 13, 1794
10. Relinquishment of land (15,000 acres) by Nathan, Joel, and William H. Rice to John Overton – August 6, 1795
11. Deed of land (30,000 acres) from Elisha Rice for himself, Nathan, Joel, and William H. Rice to John Overton and articles of agreement for Overton to sell 24,250 acres to pay debts of John Rice, deceased – July 26, 1794
12. Account of sale of land (24,250 acres) Elisha Rice to Andrew Jackson – August 8, 1795
13. Deed for land (15,000 acres) from Elisha Rice for himself, Nathan, Joel, and William H. Rice to John Overton – September 15, 1795
14. Statement of various tracts of land transferred from Rice family to John Overton – 1794-1796
15. Court case: Hugh Gwynn , et al vs. William H. Rice, et al Metro District and Tennessee Supreme Court – 1808-1826
16. Power of attorney, Andrew Jackson to John Overton – April 2, 1822
17. Survey of land by William Lawrence – December 5, 1822, recorded October 20, 1828
18. Agreement of land partition, John Overton, James Winchester, Andrew Jackson, William Winchester, George Winchester – December 5, 1822
19. Deed for site of land for Memphis from Andrew Jackson, John Overton, James Winchester for himself and devisees of William Winchester – July 7, 1832
20. Map of Memphis showing division of land

### **Papers Concerning Nashville Lot**

21. Deed of Nashville lot to Major Charles Gerrard by Lardner Clark – August 8, 1789
22. Minutes of meetings of University of North Carolina Board of Trustees regarding release of Nashville lot to Elizabeth Gerrard Hunter – December 1804, November 1806, December 1910
23. Deed of Nashville lot from University of North Carolina Board of Trustees (Benjamin Smith, Henry Seawell, Robert H. Jones) to Elizabeth Gerrard Hunter – July 6, 1811
24. Agreement of Elizabeth Hunter to sell Nashville lot to Thomas Childress and William Anderson through the agency of Will Polk – February 28, 1811
25. Correspondence of Will Polk to Henry Hunter (husband of Elizabeth Gerrard Hunter), January 2, 1822; March 29, 1812; regarding William Anderson's payment for Nashville lot

### **Miscellaneous Papers**

26. Contract between William M. Neill, Matthew D. Cooper, and Madison Caruthers in establishment of Cooper, Caruthers, & Co., New Orleans, Louisiana – December 1, 1827
27. Correspondence from Thomas J. Stump to Julia Stump McNish (his sister) – October 17, 1859; April 7, 1867; January 27, 1861
28. Land grant to George W. Crawford, February 24, 1849 – includes survey of same land, January 30, 1850
29. Land grant to Noah Wynt, July 12, 1851 – includes survey of same land, July 23, 1851
30. Land grant to N.W.W. Yont, March 11, 1857 – includes survey of same land, April 11, 1857
31. Stock certificate for one hundred shares in Sewanee Mining Company issued to William B. Shapard – September 13, 1856